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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Daniel W. Chan

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EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE LLP

P.O. BOX 55874

BOSTON, MA 02205

EXAMINER

RAWLINGS, STEPHEN L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1643

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/29/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment

1. The amendment filed April 1, 2008, is non-responsive for the following reason:

The amendment filed April 1, 2008, would amend all claims, which were previously drawn to the elected invention, so as to present only claims drawn to a non-elected invention.

The claims, as would be amended, are not readable on the elected invention for the following reasons:

As would be amended, claims 1-4, 11, and 12 would be directed to a method of determining if a subject has prostate cancer.

In contrast, the originally presented claims were directed to a method of qualifying prostate cancer status in a subject.

As noted in the preceding Office action mailed July 11, 2007, Applicant has elected the invention of Group III, claim 5, drawn to a method of qualifying prostate cancer status in a subject, said method comprising measuring at least one biomarker in a sample from the subject, wherein said prostate cancer status is **the type of disease**.

Claims 1-4, 11, and 12 were identified as linking claims, linking the inventions of Groups I, II, III, and IV.

Applicant further elected the species of the invention of Group III, wherein the at least one biomarker is "Marker I" having a molecular weight of about 7.808 kD.

It is submitted that qualifying *the type of disease* is not the same as determining if a subject has prostate cancer.

The presence or absence of disease does not provide an indication of the type of disease.

It is further submitted that a process for determining if a subject has prostate cancer, if not a wholly different invention from those to which the originally presented claims were directed, might fall within the scope of claims directed to the non-elected invention of Group II, which is a method of qualifying prostate cancer status in a subject, said method comprising measuring at least one biomarker in a sample from the subject, wherein said prostate cancer status is **the presence or absence of disease**.

Because the breadth of claims 1-4, 11, and 12, as the claims would be amended, differs so substantially from the breath of the originally present claims, which were directed to the elected invention, examination of the amended claims would require new and different considerations and searches, which were not before necessary. As such, examination of the claims, as would be amended, would be unduly burdensome.

Since Applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits.

Accordingly, after entry of the amendment, all remaining claims would be withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected inventions, and therefore the amendment, which presents only claims drawn to such non-elected inventions, is non-responsive. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

2. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen L. Rawlings, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-0836. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Helms, Ph.D. can be reached on (571) 272-0832. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1643

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Stephen L. Rawlings/

Stephen L. Rawlings, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1643

slr
July 25, 2008